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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1906.


### Our Porto Rican Colony.

As foreshadowed in his Porto Rican addresses, President Roosevelt urges that full American citizenship be conferred upon the people of Porto Rico, in the special message sent to Congress yesterday. He was unable to see how any harm can result from making the Porto Ricans American citizens, and thinks they have earned the privilege by "rapid progress along the path of orderly liberty." Of all our colonial subjects, the Porto Ricans have given us least trouble. Few of them are likely to emigrate, so that their citizenship will add little to the heterogeneity of our population and the perplexity of our race problems. There is no reason why they should not enjoy all the privileges of American citizenship.

The President waxes enthusiastic over the beauty and fertility of the island and over the admirable character of its government, which he thinks needs no change, in spite of the barrier to perfect autonomy interposed by our control of the insular executive council. The experience of Cuba, however, goes far to justify the precaution taken by Congress in keeping a strong hand upon the Porto Rican government. Theoretically, that government is not quite in accord with American ideals, but in practice, as the President observes, no other method of administration, in all probability, would have operated so well in the case of people unaccustomed to the exercise of freedom and to the rule of the majority. Senator Foraker should feel gratified by the warm Executive admiration of the legislation for which he was so largely responsible.

We agree with the President that colonial affairs should be administered by a single department of the home government. Shall we not some day have a Secretary of the Colonies in the Cabinet?

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Mr. Roosevelt may as well resign himself right now to the fact that he will not be permitted to have the last word.

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### One Military Precedent.

The dismissal of the negro troops by the President of the United States recently seems, after all, not to have been an absolutely unprecedented thing. The Charleston News and Courier finds that in October, 1864, Gen. Robert E. Lee, commanding the forces of the Confederate States, caused an entire battalion of the army to be mustered out "for cowardly conduct on every battlefield from Gettysburg to the present time," and as "unworthy a place as an organization in the Army of Northern Virginia." The disgraced battalion was forced to give up its colors and march to the rear, as a token of its shame and disgrace.

In striking parallel with the order in the case of the colored troops, Gen. Lee, in the order dismissing his troops, says:

"The general commanding the Army of Northern Virginia regrets that there are some brave officers and men belonging to this organization who must share in this common disgrace, but the good of the service requires it, and they must bear it as brave soldiers."

While this order was issued in time of war and in the face of the enemy, it was also issued without any process of court-martial, but only under the authority of the head of the army.

Discipline in the army is essential, in time of peace as well as war. It cannot be held together and made effective without the most rigid and stern discipline. The time to prepare an army for effectiveness is in time of peace. A laxly governed army would be a poor thing to depend upon in an emergency. Strict and unrelenting discipline has been the unvarying custom and rule of all great military figures.

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Senator Bailey's explanation department seems booked for a long, hard winter.

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### A Great Influence for Good.

There are few greater or more helpful influences for good in the District than the Public Library. More books than ever are going into Washington homes, and the attendance at the library has also largely increased.

The request of the library authorities for an extension of their sphere of usefulness is worthy of serious consideration. There is a Carnegie fund for the establishment of branch libraries, and already there is a bill before the Senate which will authorize, if it passes, the establishment of a branch library at Takoma Park. This can be done out of the Carnegie fund. The request, too, that the $13,000 necessary to complete the improvement of Mount Vernon square, so that the curbing and walks about the library building may be finished, is an altogether reasonable one.

The Washington Library is thoroughly modern in throwing open its shelves, among which readers can browse and feast their eyes before plucking the intellectual fruit. Other methods of bringing books to the attention of the public which have been pushed with praiseworthy zeal are the publishing of lists or books in the newspapers, the establishment of a teacher's reference library, conducting reading classes and story hours for children, the aiding of literary clubs and the opening of the library on Sundays and holidays.

The work has been done by a force of assistants to the librarian entirely too small, and the complaint that this force is underpaid is well grounded in fact.

In social settlements the books of the library are finding their way, but the work is done by volunteers, and it could be wonderfully augmented under trained management. Even the central building of the library is not allowed to come to its fullest use because of the lack of assistants.

Here is one department of endeavor that is altogether worthy—work that is entirely for the public good. The liberal distribution of good books, beginning with the children, helps wonderfully in fitting them for high citizenship; it helps the parents also to higher ideals, both for themselves and for their children.

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Unless we mistake the signs of the times, Mr. Bellamy Storer is just about the size man California is seeking for the next Republican nomination for the Presidency.

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### Undiplomatic and Unofficial.

Letters familiarly addressed "My dear Theodore," "My dear Bellamy," and "My dear Maria" cannot properly find place in the archives of state. They are neither diplomatic nor official. Indeed, these particular letters are about as undiplomatic and unofficial as any correspondence from high quarter the reading public has been permitted to scan. But it is worth while, nevertheless, to recall what the Hon. John W. Foster has to say on a subject somewhat akin to this in his "The Practice of Diplomacy." Here are his words:

"The practice of some retired American ministers of making public vindication of their conduct, in cases where they have differed from their government, is to be reprehended. So much abuse has grown out of the practice that the department, in its printed instructions, has forbidden retiring diplomatic officers from retaining any documents or copies of official correspondence. A minister should trust to time and the official publication of the correspondence for his vindication. The interests of the country have suffered more from the exposure than the character of the minister could possibly have done from his silence. Distinguished instances of this indiscretion in our history have been the vindication of Mr. Monroe of his conduct in France, and the controversy of Lewis Cass on his return from Paris with Secretary Webster. Other indiscretions of this character on the part of returned ministers might be cited. There is no doubt that such conduct is immoral in political ethics and to be severely condemned."

The country has not suffered, perhaps, by this Storer "exposure," if it may be called that; but while fairly reveling in the wordy warfare—the play of the typewriter here and at Cincinnati—no level-headed American is swelling with pride over the remarkable episode.

It may have added to the gayety of the nation, but certainly it has not added to its dignity.

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Secretary Bonaparte says the navy "only costs $1.33 per capita." That, however, takes no account of the many sleepless nights it costs Capt. Hobson.

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### The Late Cicero.

The tomb of Consul Marcus Tullius Cicero, a Roman gentleman whose other names and titles, if he had any, seem to have struck a siding as they hurried along the track of time, has been brought to light after many years of most undeserved oblivion. We are very glad to hear it. Cicero stood right at the head of the statesmen of his day.

History has dealt rather unkindly, not to say gingerly, with Cicero. Very little, in truth, is known of him, except such as you may find in the books he left behind, and these are written in such rigidly unsimplified Latin that very few people seem disposed to study them. Nevertheless, it is chiefly for the things he wrote that he became famous, though it must be acknowledged that he was also very famous for many things he did not write, as all truly great men are. One of the beautiful truths gathered from the fragmentary records of his noble life is the fact that those who have things to write would do well to follow Cicero's illustrious example of either not writing them at all, or else writing them in apparently unfathomable Latin. Only in this way can one be sure that one's writings will never afterward confront him to his embarrassment.

Cicero, while not a commanding power himself, seems to have made it an invariable rule of conduct to follow the wishes and desires of those in power. He was not only a great diplomat, but quite a lucky man as well. Cicero was a great orator, though not so superbly great as to have been ruthlessly flung down the ages as "the boy orator" of anything. By a careful and painstaking manipulation of the wires, he succeeded at one point in his career in having himself elected one of the consuls, a sort of glorified senator. Between various Chautauqua dates he found time to address the senate quite eloquently. The most notable of these efforts was his attack upon a lame duck of Populistic proclivities known as Lucius Sergius Cataline.

Just exactly which one of the trusts succeeded in having Cicero elected to the consulship as aforesaid seems somewhat hard to determine; but his undoubted ability at muck-raking, coupled with his brilliancy as an octopus chaser, stamps him indelibly as one of the few statesmen of the times who was undoubtedly "on to his job."

Cicero never seemed to gain any great permanent political advantage from his numerous speeches and writings, though he evidently took care to see that they were faithfully reported in the Record for the benefit of his admiring constituency. He was a great man, and he had his partisans, but in the end he was ruthlessly cut down, and the country managed to wabble along fairly well without him.

It is a happy thought to know that Cicero's tomb has been discovered. It shocks us to think that the tomb of so fine a statesman could have been so long lost.

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The Japanese war talk ended so abruptly that it is rather difficult to remember right off what we were mad about.

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### Land Frauds and the Law.

Secretary Hitchcock's annual report gives an inkling of the immense task which awaits his successor in the Interior Department. More than half a million acres of the public domain have been fraudulently appropriated by private interests and should be restored to the government; 400 persons are under indictment for conspiring to defraud the government of its public land, and Federal officers are "constantly uncovering new cases that are startling in character." In the enforcement of the law powerful political and financial influences have been met and but partially overcome—influences which "have not hesitated to aggressively exert every agency that could be commanded to weaken the hand of the law."

Fortunate is it that the public domain has been for the past five years under the supervision of so honest, untiring, and faithful a public servant as the outgoing Secretary of the Interior, and that his hands have been strongly upheld by the President. But why is it that the legislation under which the commission of these gigantic frauds is possible remains unrepealed and unamended? We have the assurance of Mr. Hitchcock that the government may expect to continue the expenditure of its money and energy in apprehending and convicting land grabbers as long as the present land laws afford opportunity for the fraudulent acquisition of public lands, and until those laws are repealed or modified. For five years has the Secretary of the Interior urged upon Congress legislation to diminish the possibility of land frauds, and for five years have his repeated recommendations gone unheeded, at least so far as affirmative Congressional action is concerned.

It is a most singular circumstance that Congress should enact and continue in force statutes which in themselves are open invitations to fraudulent acquisition of public lands and which afford to the land-grabbers the very opportunities the Departments of the Interior and of Justice are bending every effort to close. Yet that is the plain implication of the language used by Mr. Hitchcock in recommending radical changes in the land laws. Is it possible that Congress or any portion of its membership is under the sway of the "powerful influences" which have sought to palsy the strong arm of the Secretary of the Interior, or, worse still, is it possible that the powerful influences to which the Secretary refers are exerted upon the floor of either house, or emanate from interested Senators and Representatives?

We have no doubt that President Roosevelt will insist upon rigorous prosecution of the land-grabbers, and that Mr. Garfield will continue the aggressive policy of his predecessor. But better yet would be a revision of the land laws with a view to removing the opportunities for fraud that they now afford to the greedy and the unscrupulous, and so terminating the absurd governmental policy of opening the door to wrongdoing and then attempting to punish the wrongdoer.

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Mr. Clyde Fitch recently remarked: "Newspaper theatrical critics are nothing but a lot of deadheads." The statement, however, is probably only a cheap attempt upon the part of Mr. Fitch to get a little deadhead advertising.

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Chicago is excitedly discussing whether or not Adonis had whiskers. As long as Col. Jim Ham Lewis' are there to scintillate, why worry about Adonis'?

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Japan says she would not have the Philippines as a gift. Does Japan propose to persist until she has broken down every vestige of our traditional friendship?

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Does the calling up of the Smoot case mean a calling down for the Senator?

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Perhaps all would have gone well with Senator Bailey had he never fallen victim to the wiles of the spike-tail coat.

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For a while, it appeared to be anything but the Pacific Slope.

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It is easy to see what Archbishop Ireland doesn't get out of it.

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"If Mr. Roosevelt got $1 a word, like Kipling, he would have received $25,000 for the message," says the Detroit Free Press. Not exactly; he would have been docked a little for the simplified words.

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Gen. Weyler has been made Spanish minister of war, which is the next easiest job to minister of the marine.

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According to the London correspondents, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice seems likely to be the next American Ambassador. We trust that England isn't going to wait until the entire winter is over, however.

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The Tokyo Jiji warmly commends the President's message. We fear the Jiji is in for a serious reprimand from Judge Grosscup.

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California's Congressmen feel considerably relieved that they will not have to resolve themselves into battle ships, cruisers, torpedo boats, and things.

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Mr. Roosevelt's letter to Mr. Storer contains a postscript almost as long as the letter. This was out of deference to the lady in the case, doubtless.

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The phonograph makers and the pianola makers are engaged in deadly warfare. Public sympathy is overwhelmingly with neither.

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A Virginia woman wants to mortgage her brains to the doctors for $10,000. Considering the brilliancy of the idea, the price is about $9,999 too high.

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Mrs. Parsons' book is said to be far less shocking than advance notices indicated. But some jealous rival may be seeking to depress the sale of the book.

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A Kentucky man, after forty-four years of bashfulness, has at last "popped the question" and been accepted. This must have been quite a trial courtship to the bride-to-be.

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An enthusiastic Republican says: "We shall put Speaker Cannon in the Vice Presidential chair." Not if Uncle Joe sees you first.

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As we understand it, Pittsburg is inclined to look upon the post-office without graft as something in the nature of cranberries without turkey.

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Other diplomats may get a line on what is apt to happen when the letter that he longs for fails to come.

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One of the Ohio papers wants Gen. Grosvenor for governor. The general is on record as to his willingness to gather to his bosom any office seen wandering in his vicinity.

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A Hammond (Ind.) man, supposed to be dead, has returned and is kicking about his obituary notices. A man who cannot be pleased with the things said in his obituary notice must be hard to please, indeed.

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"Maxim Gorky has now left Naples in disgust," says the Baltimore Sun. Undoubtedly "in disgust"—right in the middle of it.

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Perhaps those French Deputies thought Boni was going to tell them the story of his blighted life.

## PASSING THOUGHTS.

"My dear Bellamy" is retired, but not retiring. The wonder is that he could attend to his diplomatic duties and keep up his extensive correspondence.

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The illustrations accompanying the President's forthcoming Panama Canal message may enable the country to get its mind off that red-hot controversy.

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Some ingenious person has figured out that President Roosevelt used fifty-four simplified words in his recent message and saved 125 useless letters, or about four and one-third newspaper lines. Thus the message was not appreciably shortened or the labor of those who read it agreeably lightened by the new spelling. The paucity of result from the use of clipped words seems sadly disproportionate to the prodigiousness of the effort required to have them forced into use.

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Mrs. Parsons' book, instead of being a "story," as some ministers have designated it, or a novel, as some newspapers have characterized it, is in reality a text-book, full of footnotes and cross references. There was a steady demand for the book at the Public Library, but most of those fortunate enough to get an early copy returned it in less than twenty-four hours. They were disappointed over its dullness. The second edition will not sell as rapidly as the first. The rule nowadays seems to be—no sensation, no sale!

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It is not surprising that the dismissed negro soldiers should be at a loss to know how to proceed in trying to secure re-enlistment. To require the accused to furnish proof of innocence is something new to the "due process of law," as it has been commonly interpreted in this country. Secretary Taft, however, has neatly solved the problem by making proof of innocence one of the qualifications of an applicant for re-enlistment, placing it on all fours with age, height, and good moral character. Mr. Taft's ingenuity is of a happy order when it comes to disentangling hard knots.

## A LITTLE NONSENSE.

### WINTER'S VAUDEVILLE.

The entertainment opens with
Bluster & Blow.
Their knockabout has little pitch,
But Wizard Snow
In sleight of hand a hit doth make.
Applause he earns
As into a great frosted cake
The earth he turns.

A whistling turn by Signor Gale
Is not much fun;
And to wax warm the people fail
When it is done.
But he is very far from through.
Although he bores,
Of imitations gives a few
And howls and roars.

Hailstone & Slush have little tact;
They tiresome are.
J. Frost gets off a sketching act;
Then comes the star.
Miss Sunshine is, beyond a doubt,
The present rage.
We all rejoice when she comes out
To take the stage.

### The New Way.

"Is Jinks wedded to his art?"

"Well, he says if he can't make a living at it, he'll take up something else."

"I see. Wedded on trial."

### Of Course.

"Which do you think yields the most real enjoyment, pursuit or possession?"

"That depends."

"On what?"

"Whether you are talking about a girl or a car."

### Slender and Slim.

From this to that in curious way
Dame Fashion ever skips.
The nineteen-seven girl, they say,
Will not run much to—
Embonpoint.

### Something Should Be Did.

"There's bein' a good many murders, Hiram, under the unwritten laws."

'Gosh, yes. What oughter be did?"

"I think folks oughter git together an' codify them laws."

### The Versatile Humorist.

"Henry, my last year's hat can't be revamped for this Christmas."

"Never mind, my dear. Fortunately, my last year's jokes can."

## THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

### HIGHER THOUGHT.

"You haven't a mind above dress!"
The husband declares in his passion.
"You think of no more and no less
Than what kind of waists are in fashion.
I've never in life heard you speak
Of classics, of poems, of Latin;
Of sculptures, or paintings, or Greek—
Your mind runs to ribbons and satins!"

"Ah, me!" sighs the beautiful wife,
"Ah, me! You are terribly cruel,
When I said I'd be yours for life
You called me your treasure, your jewel!
My mind does go higher than that;
I'm even now thinking upon it—
I don't know if I want a hat
Or whether to get a lace bonnet."

### AT THE MINSTRELS.

"I has a conundrum to propound this evening," says Mr. Bones to Mr. Tambo, after the semicircle has seated itself.

"Proceed with your prouniciamento," suggests Mr. Tambo.

"What is the difference between a man who compresses dried grass into rectangular solidity and one who calls to the ruler of Algiers?"

"That, sir," replies Mr. Tambo, "is easy. The one has to feed the press and the other has to press the fee."

"Not yet."

"One bunches the hay and the other hunches the Bey."

"Almost, but not quite."

"One binds the fodder and the other finds the bother."

"Come again."

"One—say, what's is the answer?"

"One bales the hay and the other hails the Bey."

During the uproar which ensues the interlocutor steps gracefully to the footlights and announces that Mr. Percival Bustthrote will render "Her Face May Be Filled With Freckles But Her Heart Is Full of Joy." WILBUR NESBIT.

## GREAT COMET COMING.

### Brilliant Celestial Visitor Due to Arrive in Sight in 1910.

From Leslie's Weekly.

The most famous of all comets, though not the largest and most brilliant, will again be visible in 1910. This is Halley's comet, so called from its identification by the great astronomer who was the friend of Sir Isaac Newton. Halley's investigations of astronomical records led him to assert that the comet which he had observed in 1682 had appeared in 1853 and in 1607, and to predict its reappearance in 1759. The fulfillment of this prophecy excited the most intense scientifi interest, and established beyond doubt the periodicity of comets and their movement in orbits determined by the law of gravitation.

Its last appearance was in 1835, its period varying between seventy-five and seventy-six years on account of the perturbing attractions of Jupiter and Saturn in certain parts of its orbit. It was by that time possible to calculate its movements with so much greater acuracy than before that it made its perihelion passage within four days of the predicted date. It was not then a very grand object to the naked eye, but the light of its nucleus surpassed that of second-magnitude stars and was comparable with that of some reddish stars of the first magnitude, such as Aldebaran and Antares. Its tail, while the comet was approaching the sun, attained to a length of 20 degrees.

### Dines With Most Engaging.

From the Detroit Free Press.

James Russell Lowell, when American Minister in London, received an invitation from Lord Granville, then foreign secretary, to the effect that he was about to ask, at comparatively short notice, for the pleasure of the company at dinner of "the most engaged man in London."

To which Mr. Lowell wittily replied, according to Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice's "Life of Lord Granville:"

"The most engaged man in London accepts with the greatest pleasure the kind invitation of the most engaging."

### Protection for State Solons.

From the Holton (Kans.) Signal.

The lobbyist should be required to wear two numbers, one in front and one behind, so that he can neither approach nor back up on the unsuspecting legislator. The way to reform is to reform.

### A Tremendous Conjunction.

From the Hartford Times.

The critical moment in the history of the United States Senate will come when Tillman, La Follette, and Jeff Davis simultaneously insist on catching the presiding officer's eye.

### THE SPINNER.

A little moon, like the first-blown hawthorn white,
Swings low upon the dark, slim poplar spray;
Warm closed, the buds are shut o'er earth to-night;
But dear maid May

Is spinning through the sweet, mild dark, those quilts
Of flowers she throws broadcast; her white wheel's whirr
Is soft as constant rain that falls in lilts
And answers her:

For while the fragrant broidery grows, she sings
A thousand thoughts that from old ages steal—
Dawn finds her spinning in the fairy-rings
With cobweb wheel.

L. K. Lloyd, in the Country Side.

## CAPITOL GOSSIP.

### Burrows Opens Big Battle.

The Hon. Julius Caesar Burrows seldom makes a set speech in the Senate, but when he does he is listened to with the undivided attention of his colleagues—a compliment paid to comparatively few members of that body. As chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, the Michigan statesman yesterday opened the concluding fight in the long-drawn-out battle over Reed Smoot. Not since he argued successfully against the late Matthew Stanley Quay retaining the seat in the Senate to which he was appointed by the governor of Pennsylvania after the legislature had failed to elect has Senator Burrows made so long and carefully prepared a speech. Senator Smoot sat calmly and unruffled all through the ordeal to which he was subjected by the Burrows report and argument. Occasionally the Utah Senator made notes, but the memoranda he thus compiled did not seem to be extensive. Senator Dubois will speak against Senator Smoot to-day.

### Tillman's Ordinary Speech.

The reported canceling of an engagement made with Senator Tillman to deliver an address under the auspices of an Ohio church society because he would not pledge himself in advance not to indulge in profanity in the community he was invited to visit has called attention to the South Carolinian's ordinary speech in private. It is a fact, not denied by Mr. Tillman, even, that he occasionally uses some pretty vigorous speech in private conversation, but his public utterances are never accentuated by profanity. While Senator Tillman employs a good many "cuss words" to emphasize his points in private conversation, it is a notable fact that his speech on all occasions is singularly free of obscenity or anything bordering on the obscene. The South Carolinian was never known to relate a smutty story, or even to indulge in the mildest form of what the French call double entente.

### Wilbur D. Nesbit, Humorist.

Wilbur D. Nesbit, the poet and humorous writer, visited the Capitol yesterday, presumably to gather material for a new novel he is now writing. He told Senator Beverage something of the experiences he has with old family friends when he visits Muncie, Ind., the city of his birth.

"I seldom meet an old friend of my family at Muncie," said Mr. Nesbit, "that I am not more embarrassed than amused by the questions asked as to 'how I do it?' When I was last there a fine old Muncieite, who has known my family always, wanted me to dash him off a poem while I was dining in his home. He insisted that I was able to do this, since he saw a poem by me in the paper every day, and if I could write these things in my own home at Evanston, Ill., why couldn't I do it in his house, and give him a chance to witness the operation? He intimated that I would do it if I had not grown too proud and haughty to accommodate the friends of my family. 'But where do you get your talent?' is usually the first question asked me, with some such sapient observation as this: 'I have knowed your father and mother and your uncles and aunts all their lives, and not a one of them has or had any writin' talent. So where did you get your'n?'"

### Rayner and Bonaparte.

Now that a fight of more or less determination is being made against the confirmation of the Hon. Charles J. Bonaparte as Attorney General on the ground that a few years ago he delivered speeches upholding the trust or combination system, considerable interest is excited to know what attitude will be assumed by the Maryland Senators, both of whom are Democrats. As Senator Rayner usually fights hard and effectively when he fights at all, particular interest is felt in his attitude. Mr. Rayner has not expressed himself publicly on the question as yet, and probably may not do so at all. He and Mr. Bonaparte have not been friends for more than twenty years, and in all that time they have not spoken when brought face to face. They had a difficulty over a law case, which, it is said, nearly led to a fisticuff, and now when they meet each manages to be interested in something that demands a gaze in the opposite direction. Neither can be induced to discuss the other, and it is not unlikely that should the Senator feel inclined to oppose Mr. Bonaparte's confirmation Marylanders would be treated to the rare exhibition of a mental prize fight between these two gladiators.

### Cousins Has a Double.

St. Louis visitors to the galleries of the House are remarking on the striking resemblance of the Hon. Robert G. Cousins, now chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to their famous feuilletoniste, William Marion Reedy. The Iowa statesman is taller by two or three inches than the St. Louis litterateur, but their faces are as much alike as if they were twins. Even in the matter of dress, their tastes are markedly similar, and in action and repose the resemblance is even more noticeable. Mr. Cousins, like his St. Louis double, has a sharp and cutting wit, and his vocabulary of invective, though seldom used, is equally as rich and scathing as Reedy's. It is said that whenever Mr. Cousins goes to St. Louis he is constantly annoyed by persons stopping him on the streets and insisting upon it that he is Mr. Reedy. Each has a peculiar drawl in his speech that is exactly alike, and their gesticulations are so similar that their resemblance otherwise is all the more accentuated.

### To Hunt for 'Possums.

Senator Blackburn and other Southern statesmen who as boys used to hunt 'possums in the persimmon season are thinking of organizing a foray against the marsupials in this region, if any are to be found near Washington. They have been told marvelous tales of 'possum hunting by local sportsmen, who declare that almost within the shadow of the Capitol's dome lots of the astute animals can be found most any night if only the hunter is possessed of that sixth sense which enables him to locate the 'possum's habitat. It is related that in the neighborhood of Cabin John Bridge the 'possums just now are prowling about these beautiful nights in large number, and that the fortunate denizens in that vicinity are reveling daily in 'possum feasts. Senator Blackburn smacked his lips loudly yesterday when listening to Col. Richard J. Bright tell how he had recently visited a farmer friend in the Cabin John neighborhood and enjoyed a 'possum dinner. The Kentucky statesman and a party of friends may be expected soon to slip out into the woods a short way up the Potomac some night and bag a few 'possums. Complaint is made that it is virtually impossible to get them in the Washington markets.

### Pawn Ticket Lost.

From the Montgomery Advertiser.

The Philadelphia Ledger propounds a difficult question when it wants to know if there is no way to redeem the honor of that city. We suspect the pawn ticket is lost.

### Song of the Shopper.

You must wake and call me early, call me early, mother, dear;
To-morrow I would shopping go—the Christmas time is near.
I want to shop while stocks are full—the struggling crowds I fear;
So wake and call me early, call me early, mother, dear.

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

## WHEN FRIENDS FALL OUT.

### Significance of Roosevelt-Storer Correspondence Pointed Out by Press.

From the Baltimore Sun.

The public will be loth, without further information, to pass harsh judgment upon either the President of the United States or the former Ambassador to Austria-Hungary. If both of them had carried out the letter and spirit of American institutions, there would have been no misunderstanding about Archbishop Ireland. There are many who believe that Ambassador Storer would scarcely have sought an interview with Pius X unless he thought he had been delegated to do this by the President. On the other hand, is it not possible that Mr. Roosevelt, in his desire to prove his friendship for Archbishop Ireland, was willing to stretch a point and make a personal suggestion to the Vatican? In view of Mr. Roosevelt's characteristic way of treating multifarious subjects—subjects which other Presidents have never treated before, embracing social, domestic, theological, scientific, and racial ones—does it require an expanded imagination to picture him as regulating the hierarchy in a matter as insignificant as the appointment of a cardinal? At any rate, the episode is one from which American Presidents and ambassadors may learn a valuable lesson. Altogether, the incident is one of the most significant and impressive in the history of American diplomacy.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

From what has been made public of the Storer-Roosevelt controversy the public will find no difficulty in diagnosing an acute case of the intervention of feminine and social influence in diplomacy, producing the anomalous result for the country of matters of church and state. When that is said all is said for people of discretion. The man who will hazard participation in the discussion of a complication where the eternal feminine has intervened will rush in where both angels and wise men fear to tread.

From the Hartford Times.

President Roosevelt can hardly escape, it seems to us, the charge of having pursued a decidedly devious course in this matter. He earnestly desired and sought the promotion of he archbishop. Naturally, he did not wish to be placed on record as making the request at Rome. But that the Storers had the right to feel that they were faithfully reporting him in making that request the evidence is very convincing. We are compelled to the conclusion that Mr. Storer's veracity is in nowise impeached by anything Mr. Roosevelt says.

From the New York World.

Luckily for Mr. Roosevelt, he has no reputation for discretion to lose. The world long since ceased to expect that he would pay the slightest attention to traditions and forms and established methods of procedure. The disclosures which he himself makes public would be sufficient to ruin the career of any foreign minister in Europe, but Mr. Roosevelt turns them to his advantage and succeeds in making out a very plausible showing of patience and forbearance in the midst of most vexatious circumstances.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The Storer incident, with its publication of private and confidential letters, is a most lamentable episode in our history; but if it enforces the lesson that we should mind our own business abroad and at home and keep aloof from ecclesiastical or other intrigues which are none of our concern, we shall not buy the instruction at too high a price.

From the Cleveland Leader.

Theodore Roosevelt has lost none of his force and effect in controversial correspondence. If any one doubts, let him ask the Storers.

From the Baltimore News.

The Roosevelt-Storer episode is unfortunate, but it makes what a great editor would call "mighty interesting reading."

From the Boston Transcript.

The Bellamy Storers seem to have been talking through the cardinal's hat.

## FEW JAPANESE IN SCHOOLS.

### Some Other Exaggerations Found in San Francisco Inquiry.

San Francisco dispatch in New York Times.

Personal inquiry has shown that the number of Japanese scholars in the San Francisco public schools before the board of education issued its famous order separating them from the white children was ninety-three. The board of education admits that this figure is accurate. There are about seventy primary and grammar schools in San Francisco. Forty-seven of them had no Japanese scholars.

With the exception of two, the number of Japanese in attendance at any one school did not exceed six. The greatest number of Japanese was at the Redding Primary School, where there were twenty-three. At this school there is room for a good many more scholars than are attending. Of the ninety-three pupils, none was over twenty years old, and only two were as old as that. Six were aged nineteen, 6 were eighteen years old, 12 seventeen, 9 sixteen, and 10 fifteen. The remainder were between six and fourteen years old.

There was not a single case of trachoma among the ninety-three. In face of figures such as these, it might be expected that the Californians would drop this particular feature of the anti-Japanese campaign, but, instead, they seem bent on pushing it.

### The Drunkard's Contribution.

From Country Life in America.

The eighteenth century in England was notoriously an age of ale drinkers and wine bibbers and your English squires were topers all. Hence a large proportion of the English glassware of the eighteenth century was in the form of drinking glasses, mugs, and decanters. Frown as we may upon the pictures of midnight wassail and boisterous conviviality, with brave toasts and frothing bumpers, making the Christmas holidays one grand, sweet "booze," we cannot deny that we owe these merry roisterers much for the tall ale glasses, the graceful decanters, and the slender wine glasses which they have bequeathed to us.

### Special Message Needed.

From the Philadelphia Record.

There is one accidental omission in the message of President Roosevelt. He does not recommend a national law for the uniform regulation of the game of football. Yet he is aware that somewhat different rules of the game exist in several States. He may intend, however, to make this a subject of a special message to Congress.

### A Touch of the Comic.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

Perhaps it is the intention to add Poultney Bigelow's remarks to that illustrated canal message as a sort of comic supplement.

### THE DAILY STORY.

I.

A daily story still Life tells
Of human joys and ills;
The next thing is the Christmas bells,
And then—the Christmas bills!

II.

So, every mortal has a chance—
Though pessimists may doubt,
You pay the fiddler if you dance,
And wind up tired out!

—Atlanta Constitution.

## HEARD AT HOTELS.

Mr. J. G. Milburn, the distinguished Buffalo lawyer, at whose home President McKinley breathed his last, is at the Arlington. Mr. Milburn is averse to being interviewed, but in response to a Herald reporter's questions, said:

"From the standpoint of an old-fashioned Democrat there does not seem to be anything of promise in the political situation. Old ideals and old policies have been discarded, and the men who have always advocated the time-honored principles of the founders of the Democratic party have been relegated to the rear. Radicalism and socialism appear to be the order of the day, and those who go farthest in championing extreme doctrines appear to be in the greatest popular favor. How long this condition will endure is a matter of conjecture. No speedy end of it is visible, and my opinion is that it will continue until the country begins to feel the pinch of adversity. Perhaps when contraction and business depression set in, when capital begins to hide, and labor to find itself without employment, people will begin to wonder whether the socialistic programme is such a good one after all. While things go on swimmingly as they are now, nobody cares very much, but sooner or later a reaction is bound to come."

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It is the custom of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Conrad, of Montana, to visit Washington with their two attractive young daughters, Misses Josephine and Minnie, every winter, but their appearance at the New Willard yesterday is due to a particularly happy cause. They have come to be present at the launching of the cruiser Montana, which will take place at Newport News on Saturday next, and Miss Minnie Conrad, by appointment of Gov. Toole, of Montana, will christen the stanch fighting craft. Gov. Toole himself will not be able to come to the ceremony, but will be represented by Hon. Martin Maginnis, former Delegate in Congress.

Mr. Conrad, a Virginian by birth, went West shortly after the close of the civil war without any means, but he has grown and prospered, as did the State of his adoption, and he is now accounted several times a millionaire. At one time he had more than enough votes pledged to elect him United States Senator, an office which the vast majority of Montana Democrats wished to confer on him as their most representative citizen. The way in which he was deprived of those votes is a part of Montana's recent political history.

"We are having the best times in the West," said Mr. Conrad, "that our section ever knew. Money is more abundant and cheaper in Montana than in the East, which is certainly a remarkable condition. So fortunate is our situation that every government-ownership doctrine of Col. Bryan fails to be attractive. Western Democrats, indeed, consider it the most un-Democratic policy ever put forward."

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"Seattle is not the wide-open town it used to be," said Mr. W. Moeller, a prominent lumberman of that city, at the Arlington.

"The lid is on now, particularly as to gambling. In former days, when gambling was indulged in openly, a good many men, after losing their money in some game of chance, grew desperate, and it led to the commission of all sorts of crime. Several bold burglaries occurred and were traced to individuals who had been cleaned out of their cash at the gaming table. Finally, the citizens reasoned that Seattle was too big a town and too important commercially to be compelled to countenance gambling resorts as a means of keeping business going. The disadvantages were too heavy and the benefits nil. Thereupon the new programme went into effect, with the result that nobody wants to see a return to the wide-open policy of the past."

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"Robert Callahan, jr.," was the first name inscribed on the register of the Metropolitan Hotel yesterday. Robert, jr., was a very early arrival, about 5:30 a. m., to be exact. His proud father, the manager of the hotel, placed his namesake on the book, as the latter had not been long enough on terra firma to acquire the art of chirography. He is a husky youngster, though, and makes up in vocal ability his deficiency in penmanship.

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Gen. Charles M. Anderson, of Greenville, Ohio, a distinguished soldier of the civil war, is at the New Willard, having come to Washington to attend a meeting of the board of managers of the National Soldiers' Homes.

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There is much talk of Senator Bailey, of Texas, in the hotel lobbies. Men who have lately come here from his State shake their heads ominously when questioned as to his chances of being elected by the Legislature. None of them will talk about the matter for publication, but the consensus of opinion is that the Senator is in a desperate situation, and that it will be next to a miracle if he should win. On the other hand, some few of his stanchest friends say that the danger has been magnified, and that Bailey will triumph in spite of the difficulties that beset him. He has been known to pull out of some tight places before this, and he has turned more than one sharp curve in safety, when most men would have been spilled upon the ground.

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"After a man lives in the hurly-burly and rush of New York it is good to get back, occasionally, to this peaceful old town," remarked Mr. Edward K. Somborn, last evening at the New Willard. Mr. Somborn formerly resided here, and few men had a wider circle of devoted friends.

"I think," he continued, "that the future of Washington is brighter than that of any city in America, not in the way of developing a great commerce or varied industries, but along its own peculiar lines and in consonance and its manifest destiny. I would not as a true friend wish to see the capital a center of trade or manufacturing. There are plenty of places to struggle for business supremacy. Let Washington preserve for all time its distinctive characteristics; let it be renowned as a city of beautiful homes, of great educational institutions, of elegance, cleanliness, and a population of refinement, a gathering place of the greatest of the nation's citizenship."

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Gov. H. J. Hagerman, of New Mexico, is a guest at the Raleigh, and it is reported that the object of his visit is to combat charges said to have been made against his administration. A bitter fight on Gov. Hagerman was begun after he relieved H. O. Bursum, chairman of the Republican Territorial committee, from the superintendency of the Territorial penitentiary, alleging an apparent discrepancy in his accounts, and appointing a person from outside the Territory to the position. Bursum's removal was followed by ousting several other Territorial officials, and these are credited with having joined in the movement to secure the removal of the governor. The principal charge against the governor is that he has disorganized the Republican party in the Southwest, whereby a majority of 6,000 two years ago was reduced to a few hundred at the last election. There are several other charges of a minor nature in the bill of particulars said to have been filed at Washington. It is reported that the governor will be called on to answer the charges at an early date.